

Community Forum on City of Indianapolis Parks System

October 22, 2009

Holliday Park

Revenue

Indy Parks reps: Elaine Dillahunt, Cathy Marx

Friends Group Rep: Mark Bowell (Friends of Garfield)

In our group representatives from the following groups participated: Eagle Creek, NESCO, Riverside, Holliday, IUPUI, Hawthorne, Crown Hill, Pike Township, Nora, Butler Tarkington, Clean Stream Team, Pogues Run

Comments:

- City resource allocations need to change from Sports (Pacers, Colts) to Parks, families and the poor- Priorities are skewed
- Parks Budget
- Increase revenue at grass roots
 - Parks gets reduced every year
 - Per capita spending low
 - Mayor needs to be part of equation
- These are our Parks. Gov't doing all they can do. These parks need our help
- Upset regarding Monon Trail and Kroger
- Garfield Park "Raise Awareness, Raise Cain" It is a political matter
- Assets are in the Parks
 - Superbowl Legacy
 - Teen Summit (George Washington HS)
- State Conservation Corp
 - All Teen Project, trading labor in the Parks for access to the Parks

Fundraising

- Girl Scout cookies idea
- Tom Geisse- holding meetings and utilizing the Foundation to be the keeper of the funds
Carnivals, Grants, Charge kids more money to participate
- Professional Athletes "Adopt a Park" \$ not asked, just name recognition, Park Clean Up

Awareness

- Park Advisory Boards- Master Plans- in conjunction with Mayors Office
- Meetings need to be held with the Neighborhood Districts. Give them ownership, even office space in the Parks building so they are more connected.
- On the Gas Bill, let there be an option where they can donate to Parks.
- At Polling Places, have an Indy Parks Booth
- Holliday Park, Latino groups utilize this park. They have an entire spread and the whole family is here at the park. Recognize groups that use the Parks
- Mt Bike Trail- This gentleman works on the trail, but it not on staff with DPR. He is an advocate though for the Mt. Bike Trail. It provides a service to the park that the park can't afford. Maintaining the trails.

Partnership

- Elaine explained Corporate Partners:
 - Brookside- Citizens Gas
 - Watkins – Bright Point
 - Ivy Tech- Lifeguard Scholarships, Improvements to Barton Park
- Holliday Park good example,
 - Grass roots \$ = Public Private Partnerships
 - Lilly = Greenways
 - DPR is not selling property = Privatization
 - Louisville good example
 - Funding is a challenge
 - Selling bricks, grants, Homecoming Dance for Garfield Park, “GAPS” Program